

REMARKS

Claims 14 and 16-26 remain for examination.

Claims 14, 16-17, 23 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as anticipated by Sato '397. Further, claims 14, 16-19 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Fujikami. Finally, claims 14, 16-19 and 23-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Sato '131.

These rejections are essentially the same as set forth in the prior Office Action.

In the "Response to Arguments" section of the amendment, the Examiner states on the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 that as currently claimed, the regions where the filaments are in direct contact with their respective sheaths are not necessarily the same regions wherein the first and second outer surfaces are connected.

Applicant believes that the Examiner's statement is incorrect and that the claims clearly state exactly the opposite of what the Examiner has asserted. In particular, lines 4-6 of claim 14 (applicant's sole independent claim) recites that the first oxide wire comprises at least a first super conducting filament surrounded by an indirect contact with a first sheath at least in a region of said first end portion". The "first end portion" is underlined for emphasis. Further, in lines 7-9 it is recited that the second oxide wire comprises at least a second superconducting filament surrounded by and in direct contact with a second sheath at least in a region of said second end portion. Again, the "second end portion" is underlined for emphasis. Finally, in line 16-18, it is recited that the first outer surface forms a junction with the second outer surface by connecting the first outer surface to the second outer surface "in a region of said first and second end portions." The underlined portion is again made for emphasis.

It may be seen that indeed, the first outer surface and the second outer surface are actually recited as being connected in a region of the first and second end portions. These first and second end portions were previously recited in lines 4-9 as being the portions in which direct contact is made with the sheath corresponding to the first and second superconducting filament respectively. Thus, applicants' claims clearly define a

distinguishing structure which is not anticipated nor made obvious by the prior art cited by the Examiner including Sato '397, Fujimaki and Sato '131. Applicant hereby incorporates by reference the arguments set forth in the Remarks section of the prior amendment dated June 20, 2003 including the figure set forth on page 6 thereof and the corresponding explanation. According to that figure the regions A and B are the first end portion and second end portion respectively and, according to line 16-18 of claim 14, these end portions are the region where the first outer surface forms a junction with the second outer surface by connecting the first outer surface to the second outer surface in the regions of the first (region A) and second (region B) end portions.

As such, it is submitted that applicants' recited invention as set forth in claim 14 is clearly patentable over the prior art.

During a telephone interview with the Examiner conducted on January 14, 2004 and on January 20, 2004, the undersigned representative attempted to discuss these issues with the Examiner. However, the Examiner had now moved to the new PTO headquarters and the file was still in Crystal city. The Examiner has indicated that he ordered the file but it has not yet arrived.

It is requested that when the file arrives in the Examiner's office, that he please contact the undersigned so that the instant application may be discussed in reference to the above-mentioned claim limitations and any outstanding issues resolved during the interview.

The undersigned representative may be reached in his Los Angeles office at 310-975-7895.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 20, 2004

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